

Stated Meeting, February 5.

Present, twenty-six members.

Dr. FRANKLIN BACHE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A letter was received and read:—

From Antonio Ladislau Monteiro Baena, dated Pará, 18th December, 1846, announcing and accompanying a donation.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Mémoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences de l'Institut de France. Tome XVIII. Paris, 1842. Tome XIX. Paris, 1845. 4to.—*From the Royal Institute of France.*

Mémoires présentés par divers Savants à l'Académie Royale des Sciences de l'Institut de France, et Imprimés par son ordre. Sciences Mathématiques et Physiques. Tomes VII. VIII. et IX. Paris, 1841—1846. 4to.—*From the same.*

Mémoires de l'Académie Royale des Sciences Morales et Politiques de l'Institut de France. Tomes III. IV. Paris, 1841—1844. Savants Etrangers. Tome I. Paris, 1841. 4to.—*From the same.*

Mémoires de l'Institut Royal de France. Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres. Tome XIV. 2 Parties. Paris, 1840—1845. Tome XV. 2 Parties. 1842—1845. Tome XVI. Seconde Partie. 1846. 4to.—*From the same.*

Mémoires présentés par divers Savants à l'Académie Royale des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres de l'Institut de France. Deuxième Série. Antiquités de la France: Tome I. Seconde Partie. Paris, 1843. Première Série: Sujets divers d'Érudition. Tome I. Paris, 1844. 4to.—*From the same.*

Notices et Extraits des Manuscrits de la Bibliothèque du Roi et autres Bibliothèques. Publiés par l'Institut Royal de France. Faisant suite aux Notices et Extraits lus au Comité établi dans l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres. Tome XIV. 2 Parties. Paris, 1843. 4to.—*From the same.*

Journal Asiatique, publié par la Société Asiatique. Quatrième Série.

- Tome VIII. No. 37. Août, Septembre, 1846. 8vo.—*From the Asiatic Society of Paris.*
- The Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London. No. 8. November 1st, 1846. 8vo.—*From the Geological Society.*
- Proceedings of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Vol. I. September, 1846. No. 7. This number contains some account of the British Army under the command of General Howe; and of the Battle of Brandywine, on September 11th, 1777. By Joseph Townsend. 8vo.—*From the Historical Society.*
- Proceedings of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Vol. I. December, 1846. No. 8. This number contains Papers relating to the Battle of Brandywine, supplementary to the "Account of the Battle, by Joseph Townsend." 8vo.—*From the same.*
- The African Repository and Colonial Journal. Vol. XXIII. Feb. 1847. No. 2. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*
- Journal of the Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania. Vol. XLII. No. 252. December, 1846. No. 6. 8vo.—*From Dr. R. M. Patterson.*
- The Medical News and Library. Vol. V. February, 1847. No. 50. 8vo.—*From Messrs. Lea & Blanchard.*
- The British Almanac of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, with the Companion, for the Year of our Lord 1847. London. 12mo.—*From Petty Vaughan, Esq.*
- Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting the Report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, showing the progress of that work. Twenty-ninth Congress, Second Session, House of Representatives. Document No. 6.—*From Professor A. D. Bache.*
- Report of the State Treasurer, on the Finances of Pennsylvania, to the Legislature of the State, at the Commencement of the Session of 1847. Harrisburg. 8vo.—*From C. B. Trego, Esq.*
- Diecurso ou Memoria sobre a Intrusão dos Francezes de Cayena nas terras do Cabo do Norte em 1836. Por Antonio Ladislau Monteiro Baena. Maranhão, 1846. 4to.—*From the Author.*
- On Three Several Hurrricanes of the Atlantic, and their Relations to the Northers of Mexico and Central America, with Notices of other Storms. By W. C. Redfield. New Haven, 1846. 8vo.—*From the Author.*

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY BY PURCHASE.

Annales de Chimie et de Physique. Troisième Série. Tome XVIII.
Novembre, 1846. 8vo.

Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires des Séances de l'Académie des
Sciences. Par MM. les Secrétaires Perpétuels. Tome XXIII.
Nos. 13, 14, 16, 17, 18. 4to.

The London, Edinburgh, and Dublin Philosophical Magazine, and
Journal of Science. Third Series. December, 1846. Nos. 196
and 197. Sup. 8vo.

Astronomische Nachrichten. Nos. 578, 582, 583. 4to.

The Committee (Drs. Horner, Goddard, and Duglison) to whom was referred the communication of Dr. Meigs, on the Corpus Luteum, reported in favour of its publication, which was ordered accordingly.

Upon carefully examining a portion of fresh vitellus ovi in the microscope, numerous corpuscles, granules, punctiform bodies, and particles of oil, are seen swimming in a transparent liquid.

Upon placing a portion of fresh corpus luteum of the cow on the compressorium, and turning the screw, there escapes from the crushed mass a quantity of corpuscles, granules, punctiform bodies, and oil globules, swimming in a transparent liquid.

The appearances are so similar in the two observations, that it is scarcely possible to discover any difference, save that occasioned by portions of tissue, which are the detritus of the crushed mass of corpus luteum.

The corpuscles, whether those seen in the yolk, or those observed in the crushed corpus luteum, are equally transparent, and transmit a yellow light.

On crushing a bit of corpus luteum, there escapes much granular matter accurately resembling that of the granular membrane of the graafian follicle. This, even where great care was taken to select the portion from near the exterior superficies of a large corpus luteum, avoiding to take any from the inner surface of the crypta. This similarity suggests an identity in the nature and origin of the granules.

Dr. M. believes the colouring matter, and the chief constituent bulk of a corpus luteum, to be true vitellary matter, deposited outside of the inner membrane (ovisac) of a graafian vesicle.

He supposes this view of the nature of the corpus luteum to be new, and gives a summary account of the discovery of the germinal vesicle in the hen's egg, by Purkinje; in the mammiferous ovulum by Van Baer; and also the detection of the macula germinativa by Wagner.

The writers just named, and also MM. J. Muller, Schwann, Henle, and Huschke, take no such view of the case. The same is true as to MM. Gendrin, Negrier, Lee, Jones, Raciborski, Ollivier d'Angers, and Pouchet. Drs. Montgomery and Swan, Messrs. Flourens, Velpeau, and Moreau, do not allude to it. Bischoff and Bernhardt are equally silent.

Dr. M. refers the observation to the corrections of better observers.

Dr. Meigs' memoir being ordered for publication in the Transactions, we confine ourselves here to the resumé of his observations.

1. Equal masses of yelk and corpus luteum are equally yellow.
2. They alike fill the tube of the microscope, before the focus is obtained, with a brilliant yellow light.
3. They alike consist of a pellucid fluid, in which float granules, corpuscles containing yellow liquid, oil globules, and punctiform bodies.
4. These bodies, placed in the same glass and diligently compared, exhibit the same forms, size, tint and refraction.
5. Yelk, boiled hard, is rendered granular and friable; it is coagulated by heat.
6. Corpus luteum boiled becomes hard, granular, and friable; it is coagulated by heat.
7. Both substances, raw or boiled, stain white paper yellow.
8. There is this difference. The crushed mass of corpus luteum contains patches and shreds of laminar tissue, detritus and blood discs forced out by the compressor, which cannot occur in the yelk, as it is confined only within a vitellary membrane.
9. They refract light alike.
10. Projected on a live coal, they each alike give out the odour of roasted eggs.

The function of the stroma of an ovary is to produce vitellary matter, which is the pabulum of the germ and the embryo; vitellary matter is germinal matter. Whether the germ be a cast-off acinus, or a nucleated nucleole of the germinal vesicle, it is clear that it is a stroma-force that produces it.

There can be no mammiferous germ independent of vitellary matter; and as the stroma of the ovary yields the material for the construction of the ovulum, the force that is employed in its elaboration remains active, even after the maturation of that ovulum; and the surplus production being deposited outside of the ovisac or inner concentric of the folliculus graafianus, we have, as a natural consequence, the corpus luteum. Therefore the corpora lutea of mammals, whether those included under the head of true or false corpora lutea, are composed of the surplus production and deposite of vitellary matter in the stroma of ovaria.

Dr. M. refers to the importance of this observation in its medico-legal relations; and should his opinions be found correct, it may serve to settle a long controverted point in physiological anatomy.

Dr. Patterson was excused from the duty of preparing an obituary notice of the late Dr. Adrain.

Mr. Ord presented to the Society specimens of so called "Fixed Mercury," sent to the Society by Mr. Sartori, which were referred for examination to Mr. Eckfeldt and Dr. Boyè.

On motion of the Librarian, it was ordered that Vols. VIII. and IX. of the Transactions of the Society be presented to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and that it be placed on the list of correspondents of this Society.

On motion of the Librarian, the subject of the lease of the rooms now occupied by the Athenæum was referred to the Committee on the Hall, with power to take order.

Stated Meeting, February 19.

Present, twenty members.

Dr. CHAPMAN, President, in the Chair.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Mémoires de la Société Royale des Antiquaires du Nord. Copenhague, 1844. 8vo.—*From the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries.*

VOL. IV.—2 s